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LETTER DATED 31 DECEMBER 1992 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to inform you that United States aircraft continued to violate Iraqi airspace for the purpose of surveillance and provocation during the period from 22 to 28 December 1992, as follows.

22-23 December 1992

(a) Northern region: 28 sorties, flown at speeds of 600-900 km/h and at altitudes of 6,000-8,000 m, centred on Mosul, Irbil, Dohuk, Tall Afar, Zakho and Amadiyah.

- A United States TR-1 aircraft engaged in hostile reconnaissance in the northern region, entering Iraqi airspace at 1425 hours on 23 December 1992 and departing at 1447 hours. It flew at an altitude of 18,000 m.

(b) Southern region: 25 sorties, flown at speeds of 600-900 km/h and at altitudes of 6,000-9,000 m, centred over Nasiriyah, Samawah, Qurnah, Jalibah, Busayyah and Nisf.

23-24 December 1992

(a) Northern region: 20 sorties, flown at speeds of 600-900 km/h and at altitudes of 4,000-8,000 m, centred on Mosul, Zakho, Dohuk, Tall Afar, Amadiyah and Ayn Zalah.

(b) Southern region: 77 sorties, flown by F-4, F-15 and F-16 aircraft at speeds of 600-900 km/h and at altitudes of 7,000-10,000 m, centred on Basra, Nasiriyah, Amarah, Shatrah, Samawah, Ushbayjah, Salman and Jalibah.

24-25 December 1992

(a) Northern region: 15 sorties, flown at speeds of 600-800 km/h and at altitudes of 7,000-10,000 m, centred on Mosul, Dohuk, Zakho and Amadiyah.

(b) Southern region: 36 sorties, flown by F-4, F-14, F-15 and F-16 aircraft at speeds of 600-900 km/h and at altitudes of 6,000-9,000 m, centred on Nasiriyah, Samawah, Qurnah, Shatrah and Busayyah.

25-26 December 1992

(a) Northern region: No air activity was recorded in the region on this day.

(b) Southern region: 43 sorties, flown by F-4, F-14, F-15 and F-16 aircraft at speeds of 600-900 km/h and at altitudes of 6,000-11,000 m, centred on Nasiriyah, Samawah, Jalibah, Busayyah, Artawi and Salman.

26-27 December 1992

(a) Northern region: 24 sorties, flown at speeds of 600-900 km/h and at altitudes of 3,500-7,000 m, centred on Dohuk, Zakho, Mosul, Tall Afar, Irbil and Amadiyah.

(b) Southern region: 46 sorties, flown by F-4, F-14, F-15 and F-16 aircraft at speeds of 600-900 km/h and at altitudes of 6,000 to 9,000 m, centred on Nasiriyah, Shatrah, Samawah, Jalibah, Salman, Busayyah, Artawi, Qal'at Salih and Amarah.

27-28 December 1992

(a) Northern region: 36 sorties, flown at speeds of 600-900 km/h and at altitudes of 4,500-10,000 m, centred on Mosul, Irbil, Dohuk, Tall Afar, Zakho and Amadiyah.

(b) Southern region: 69 sorties, flown by F-14, F-15 and F-16 aircraft at speeds of 600-900 km/h and at altitudes of 6,000-11,000, centred on Nasiriyah, Samawah, Salman, Jalibah, Busayyah, Qurnah and Qal'at Salih.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as an official document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Nizar HAMDOON
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

31 December 1992